

Washington, DC – Today, Congressman Harry Teague announced that funding for two new wells has been awarded to the Anthony Water and Sanitation District (AWS D). The \$179,099 grant, allocated by the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will support the construction of two water wells that will benefit an estimated 9,120 people in the area.

“It’s essential that our communities have access to clean, safe resources. And with just these two new wells, thousands of Anthony residents will get improved delivery of safe water,” said Congressman Harry Teague. “The impact of this grant does not end with this infrastructure improvement. The improvements made by this grant will allow the AWS D and the City of Anthony to qualify and compete for additional grants and project funding that will continue to improve the community infrastructure.”

The grant is funded by the Project Development Assistance Program (PDAP). These funds support the development of much needed water and wastewater infrastructure studies such as facility plans, environmental clearance documents and final design. This planning assistance in turn enables communities to qualify for construction funding from federal, state and international sources.

“The Anthony Water and Sanitation District is extremely grateful and appreciative of the BECC and its staff for the award of the technical assistance grant to our community. This award, along with the technical assistance from the BECC staff, will enable the AWS D to complete final design of a water treatment facility that is designed to remove arsenic as well as other constituents from the community’s water supply,” said Pat Banegas, Superintendent of the Anthony Water and Sanitation District. “This is a major step in our efforts to meet the compliance objectives with EPA’s drinking water standards. The BECC is to be commended for

its efforts to improve environmental conditions along the US/Mexico border.”

Testing conducted at a well in the AWSO found levels of nitrates above the allowed range and issued a violation notice with an order to stop production at the site. The EPA standard for Arsenic in public water systems is 10 part-per-billion (ppb); some of the wells in the AWSO system have levels in excess of 60 ppb. The AWSO placed the well offline and increased production on the remaining sources (six wells) resulting in the other wells going beyond their ground water allotments.

“Since 2008 we have established a close working closely with the Anthony Water and Sanitation District in the development of this water improvement project,” said Daniel Chacon, BECC’s General Manger. “This type of relationship demonstrates our continued commitment to address environmental and public health problems in New Mexico and to the district access federal, state and local funding sources to build the project.”

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